

There is very little good news coming out of Iraq today. Increasingly vicious sectarian violence continues to propel Iraq toward civil war. The U.S. announcement this week to send additional U.S. troops and military police back into Baghdad reverses last month's decision to have Iraqi forces take the lead in Baghdad . . . and represents a dramatic set back for the U.S. and the Iraqi Government. The Iraqi Government has limited ability to enforce the rule of law in Iraq, especially in Baghdad. Green Zone politics appear to have little bearing or relation to the realities of the rest of Iraq.

The Iraqis will continue to face difficult choices over the future of their country. The day-to-day responsibilities of governing and security will soon have to be assumed by Iraqis. As I said in November, this is not about setting a timeline. This is about understanding the implications of the forces of reality. This reality is being determined by Iraqis—not Americans. America is bogged down in Iraq and this is limiting our diplomatic and military options. The longer America remains in Iraq in its current capacity, the deeper the damage to our force structure—particularly the U.S. Army. And it will continue to place more limitations on an already dangerously over-extended force structure that will further limit our options and public support.

The Cold War, while dangerous, created a fairly stable and mostly predictable world order. That is no longer the case today. The challenges of the 21st century will be more complex and represent a world of greater degrees of nuance, uncertainty and uncontrollables than those of the last 60 years. America's policy choices will be more complicated than ever before.

We must be clear in our principles and interests, with friends and foes alike. But framing the world in "absolutes" constrains our ability to build coalitions and alliances, alienates our friends and partners, and results in our own isolation. No country will view its interests as coinciding exactly with ours; nor will countries simply subsume their national interests to maintain relations with America. U.S. policies that are premised on such assumptions will be flawed, with little likelihood for success, and ultimately work against our national interests.

In pursuing our objectives, America must always be mindful of the risks of sudden change and the dangers of unintended consequences. Rarely will America succeed if its actions seek to impose its objectives on others, or achieve change and reform through power alone. America is always strongest when it acts in concert with friends and allies. This approach has enhanced our power and magnified our influence. The Middle East and other regions of the world have been left behind and not experienced the political and economic reform that many other regions have enjoyed in the last 60 years.

The Middle East crisis represents a moment of great danger, but it is also an opportunity. Crisis focuses the minds of leaders and the attention of nations. The Middle East need not be a region forever captive to the fire of war and historical hatred. It will and can avoid this fate if the United States pursues sustained and engaged leadership worthy of our history, purpose, and power. America cannot fix every problem in the world—nor should it try. But we must get the big issues and important relationships right and concentrate on those. We know that without engaged and active American leadership the world is more dangerous.

When President Franklin Delano Roosevelt delivered his State of the Union Address on January 6, 1945, he counseled the United States and the world to look beyond the immediate horror of war to the challenges and

opportunities that lay ahead. Roosevelt understood the requirements of U.S. leadership and the essence of alliances and partnerships. He said:

"We must not let those differences divide us and blind us to our more important common and continuing interests in winning the war and building the peace. International co-operation on which enduring peace must be based is not a one-way street. Nations like individuals do not always see alike or think alike, and international cooperation and progress are not helped by any nation assuming that it has a monopoly of wisdom or of virtue."

Over the last 60 years since Roosevelt's remarks, the United States has been a force for peace and prosperity in the world. Decades of investment in geopolitical security, economic stability, political freedom, innovation and productivity have resulted in a 21st century of both cooperation and competition. This is a defining time for 21st Century American leadership. With enlightened American leadership this century offers the world the prospects of unprecedented global peace, prosperity and security . . . if we are wise enough to sense the moment, engage the world and share a nobility of purpose with all mankind.

#### HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, recently the Senate approved the fiscal year 2007 Homeland Security appropriations bill. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I voted in favor of this measure.

The bill allocates a total of \$32.8 billion in discretionary spending for the Department of Homeland Security. This funding will increase the current number of detention beds and Border Patrol agents, and during floor consideration, the Senate supported additional funding for border infrastructure upgrades and port security.

While this funding will help secure our borders and protect our homeland, President Bush's continued insistence on maintaining tax breaks for the extremely wealthy has made it incredibly difficult to fund important first responder grant programs.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program provides critical funding to our local fire departments for training, equipment, and facility improvements. In his fiscal year 2007 budget request, President Bush recommended only \$293 million for this important program—a dramatic reduction from the previous fiscal year's funding level of \$545 million. If this request had been enacted, it would have undermined the efforts of local fire departments in meeting their training and equipment needs.

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I was pleased the committee provided \$680 million for firefighter assistance grants, of which \$127.5 million will be allocated for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Firefighters, SAFER, Act grant program. These grants help communities hire firefighters, and in turn, local governments are responsible for providing funds to match a portion of each grant. Regrettably, President

Bush requested no funding for this important program. As a result, the money appropriated by the Senate will go a long way toward helping our first responders.

Finally, first responders also rely upon the Emergency Management Performance Grant Program. This program provides funding to State and local governments for all-hazards emergency management including natural disasters, accidents, or terrorist threats. Unfortunately, the President requested only \$170 million for this program in his fiscal year 2007 budget proposal—\$15 million less than what Congress appropriated the previous year. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, we restored this important funding and recommended \$205 million for this program.

In a post-September 11 world, we must make homeland security one of our top priorities. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will continue my efforts to ensure that our first responders have the resources and tools necessary to respond to threats against our homeland.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RETIREMENT OF GLORIA TOSI

• Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Gloria Cataneo Tosi, president of the American Maritime Congress, on her upcoming retirement. The American Maritime Congress is a research and educational organization in Washington, DC, whose membership comprises ship owners and operators having U.S.-flag vessels in both the domestic and international trades. All of the American Maritime Congress's member companies have labor agreements with the Marine Engineers Beneficial Association.

Mrs. Tosi has been with the American Maritime Congress since 1981 and has served as its chief executive officer for the past 15 years. She is a well-known maritime advocate in the Washington, DC community, including the Propeller Club of the United States. In particular, she often plays a lead industry role on issues affecting the operation of, and cargo opportunities for, U.S.-flag shipping.

While many people think of the U.S. maritime industry as only a commercial interest, it is actually a vital element of our Nation's defense. The Department of Defense could not execute its military strategies and deploy its forces worldwide without the help of U.S. shipyards, ports, shipping lines, and maritime workers. As president of the American Maritime Congress, Mrs. Tosi worked closely with the National Defense Transportation Association to ensure the maritime industry remained aligned with the Department of Defense's requirements.

Mrs. Tosi is a native of Baltimore, MD, whose family was active in the maritime industry. She came to Washington, DC, in 1969 to join the staff of